



Political Action Update

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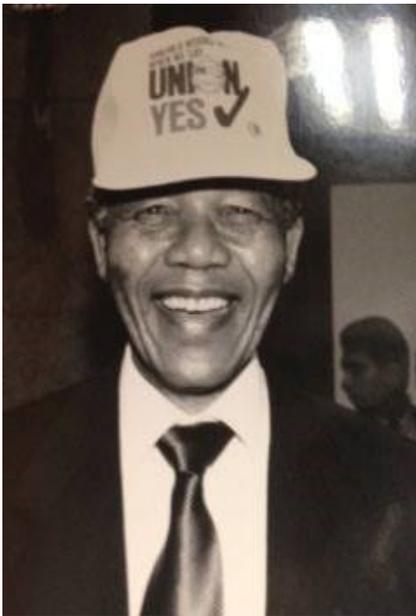
It always seems impossible until it's done

December January 2014

Good Bye

Nelson Mandela

1918—2013



President Nelson Mandela gave more than 60 years of his life fighting for the rights of South Africans and all of humanity. He was a gentle, yet determined, man who fought for his convictions.

In 1964, Nelson Mandela arrived on Robben Island, where he would spend 18 years confined to a small cell, forced to do hard labor in a quarry. Despite these hardships, Mandela never wavered in his commitment to social and economic justice for the people of South Africa and the world.

He told the court that sentenced him, "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal for which I hope to live, and to see realized. But my Lord, if it needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

His quiet dignity earned respect for him and his cause across the globe. He once said, "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."

During his visit to the United States in 1990, Mandela spoke to the AFL-CIO and called on the labor movement to use its history of empowering America's workers as a model for South African workers. We in the labor movement must take Mandela's words and continue to strive for equality and fairness for all working people around the globe.

On behalf of Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Shuler and Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre, the AFL-CIO Executive Council and the 12 million working men and women of the AFL-CIO, we extend our deepest condolences to Nelson Mandela's family, his colleagues and the people of South Africa. **Richard Trumka, President AFL-CIO**

Happy Holidays

*From the Officers and Staff of the
Iowa Federation of Labor AFL-CIO*



ALEC oath— trumps oath to state?

By Ken Sagar, President Iowa Federation of Labor

“I will act with care and loyalty and put the interests of the organization first.”

Sounds like a reasonable pledge of oath if you are a member of civic organization, and your mission is to improve your community. Sounds frightening if you are a member of the state legislature and this oath potentially supersedes your oath of office to those you are elected to represent.

The oath is to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). A shadowy group of wealthy right-wing industrialists, and their corporations, have joined together to develop and seek to implement legislation at the state level. Their “model” legislation is clearly not a model for democracy.

In fact, here in the Midwest, both South Dakota and Iowa have 100% membership, according to recently-



leaked documents that the British newspaper, “The Guardian” used as the basis of a series of articles highlighting this far-right wing group. Given the “Citizens United” US Supreme Court ruling that basically legalized bribery and corruption in the form of the vast contributions from corporations and the billionaire boys club who own them, we the people are seemingly at the mercy of these self-anointed oligarchs, who are attempting to purchase the best

government that money can buy.

Regrettably, they have been particularly successful in their efforts to cut taxes for the rich and limit regulations on their corporations. We collectively are suffering the consequences of their success. We have struggling governmental units from the federal level to local schools as we continue to cut the taxes. We have massive income inequality as too many people work hard, play by the rules, and can never seem to get ahead. We have been divided and conquered as we focus on immigration, guns, marriage equality, and other wedge issues, the economic juggernaut has stayed focused single-mindedly on protection of their wealth and power.

This is not a coincidence nor is the outcome inevitable. If we decide that the interests of our country are best served by standing up to power and pursuing policies that put people, as in “we the people” first, then our elderly, our children and our workers, will again thrive and prosper.

2014 Iowa Caucus

January 21

Precinct Caucuses

March 8

County Conventions

April 26

District Conventions

June 14 Republican State Conv.

Unions Very Active with various charity events all around Iowa



Marty Hathaway, president of AFSCME Local 2985, holds a check for \$4,500 for toys for tots.

Unions all around Iowa have been very active helping numerous charities with a variety of activities.

AFSCME Iowa Council 61 is a major sponsor of Toys for Tots. The Council and its locals have been very busy supporting Toys for Tots. Locals donated toys and funds in the following amounts: **Local 2985** (\$4,500), **Local 2659** (\$2,500), **Local 451** (\$5,000), **Local 3450** (\$1,238), **Local 1868** (\$1,000), **Local 3016** (\$350), **Local 3289** (\$100) and **Local 2998** (\$500). **Locals 35, 183, 231, 2023, 2051, 2990, 2297 and 3861** also participated by making donations.

AFSCME locals supported other charitable activities. **Local 2990** held a community Thanksgiving meal. **Local 1068** donated \$250 to the Howard Cancer Assn. and \$250 each to the Dollars for Scholars for two local school districts. **Local 3006** will donate to a food bank. **Local 212** donated \$1,000 to Mr. Goodfellow. **Local 2987** gave \$500 to a food bank and \$500 to Independence's Operation Santa Claus. **Local 3289** donated to food banks, the Salvation Army, Project HOPE, Ed Thomas Faith Foundation, NAOMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, SCIFL food baskets, The Center (Davenport), and Winnie's Wishes. **Local 12** gave \$250 to the Homeless Children's Trust. **Local 183** gave \$500 each to two food banks and \$250 to the Homeless Children's Trust. **Local 3011** donated of \$250 each to Scott Co. Humane Society, Bridging the Gap, Red Cross, Friendly House and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.



Ironworkers Local 21 assemble a 75 foot, 6,000 pound, 80,000 LED steel tree in Omaha every year for the Salvation Army.

Local 3861 donated to the ARL, the John L. Lewis Museum and SCIFL food baskets. **Locals 1868 and 3450** also donated to SCIFL food baskets. **Local 2840** gave food baskets to the Salvation Army and two women's shelters.

Local 12 of AFSCME gave \$250 to Homeless Children's Trust and held a party for homeless children. **Local 183** gave \$5000 to North Liberty Food Bank, \$500 to Crisis Center of Johnson Co. and \$250 to Homeless Children's Trust as well as donations to Toys for Tots. **Local 3011** donated \$250 each to Scott County Humane Society, Bridging the Gap, Red Cross, Friendly House, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. **Local 2840** gave food baskets to Salvation Army and women's shelter.

IBEW 347 is a major sponsor for Toys for Tots, and helped wire lights for Jolly Holiday Lights.

The Des Moines Iowa Area Local 44, American Postal Workers Union is did its annual Angel tree where it collects gifts for needy families.

Southern Iowa Labor Council donated \$250 to Workingman's Christmas, which gives toys to low-income children.

IBEW Local 231 sponsored the Christmas parade, served food at the soup kitchen, bought turkeys for Thanksgiving, and held a poinsettia fundraiser.

South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, assembled 325 Food baskets for distribution around central Iowa.

Local 33 in Sioux City gave \$500 to the food bank and adopted a family.

USW 105 and IBEW 1379 did food baskets, and **IBEW 145** hung lights for seniors in the area.

Lee County rang bells (44 hours) for the Salvation Army.

Northwest Iowa Labor Council is did food baskets. In the **Dubuque area**, they rang bells for Salvation Army, and held its annual Christmas Dinner for the low income and homebound of Dubuque.

IBEW 1634 did an angel tree for HACAP Head Start in Coralville.

Steelworkers SOAR (QUAD) donated to Valor Program through Humility of Mary and Family Resources.

Organized Labor in Blackhawk County rang bells for the Salvation Army and raised **The Hawkeye Labor Council** donated \$1,000 to the Vets. They also gave 1,200 pound of food and over \$2,500 in grocery cards to the unemployed. They also adopted a family of 8 for \$800.

This list is not a complete list of all unions activities.

IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

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Upcoming ...

- January 7—Sioux City WIN
- January 14—Davenport WIN
- January 15—Muscatine & Council Bluffs WIN
- January 16—Dubuque WIN
- January 20—Des Moines & Cedar Rapids WIN
- January 22—Waterloo WIN
- January 28—Keokuk WIN

Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

2014 Legislative Conference

Prairie Meadows, Altoona, Iowa

Reservations call: 515-957-3000 or
800-325-9015 Code 02092014AFL

www.prairiemeadows.com

\$99 room rates up to January 20th

Conference Registration:

Deadline: January 27

\$150/person—includes 3 meals,
materials, and transportation to
capitol.

Call 515-262-9571 for forms availa-
ble at [http://www.iowaaficio.org/
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February 10-11